

Pembrey and Burry Port Town Council

Regeneration and Community Engagement Committee Special Meeting

Friday 30th July 2021

Dydd Gwener 30^{ain} Gorffennaf 2021

This meeting was held via video conference under the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) 2020

Present: Councillors Michael Theodoulou (Chair), Peter Freeman, Karen Morris, Moira Thomas, Sharon Thomas, Karen Trimble and Bob Walpole.

In attendance: Huw Thomas (Town Clerk and RFO), Louise Robinson (Community Development Officer), Ed Davies (Administrative Assistant-Minute Taker)

Apologies: Cllrs Les George, Robert John, Lisa Mitchell and Mary Wenman

Absent: Cllr Stephen James

Via Zoom 10.07 to 11.20

1. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Les George, Robert John, Lisa Mitchell and Mary Wenman.

2. To receive members' declarations of interest in respect of the business to be transacted.

None were made.

3. To consider the Regeneration and Community Engagement Committee contribution to the Council Strategy.

Members noted that the Strategy Committee had requested that each Standing Committee consider its contribution to the Council strategy. Members noted the advice to avoid trying to find solutions and making plans at this meeting and instead to focus on the areas they would like the Council to be working in within the remit of this Committee.

Members discussed the topic and identified two categories, the social and physical needs of the community. Members acknowledged that any actions they could undertake would be restricted by legal and resource limitations, and that part of any strategy would have to include dealing with other organisations and third parties to deliver the broader mission or vision of the Council. It was noted that the best performing councils were those that succeeded and achieved through others in the community.

Members discussed that any works or projects chosen to tackle the strategic aims of the Council would likely cost money, which may necessitate an increase to the precept. Any such increase would need clear communication with the public and their agreement to proceed, which formed part of the "community engagement" remit of this Committee.



Members also discussed examples of other communities which they may be able to look to for examples of how to achieve their aims. It was highlighted that other communities often succeeded by giving space and support to artists and artisans. Members noted the previous efforts to establish an information centre with details of local businesses for visitors and residents alike. It was noted that the Council could take steps to make the community an attractive one for people to set up businesses in the town.

Members discussed the social needs of the community, looking at place-based services, gaps in the care services and mental well-being.

Members discussed the needs of young people and those seeking to live and work here needed as much focus as the older members of the community. It was acknowledged that this would necessitate looking at employment and housing issues in the community. Members noted that the Youth Council initiative may go some way to help identify the priorities of young people in the community but that they would have to reach out to those who would be unlikely to engage directly via that project also.

Members suggested a number of initiatives included youth led and organised events and a leisure centre, as well as utilising the existing infrastructure and resources, such as the coastal path and the beach.

Members noted that they should work to make the community more inclusive for those with disabilities and long term health conditions, as well as looking at gaps in carers relief.

The role that events could play in relation to these topics was discussed, and it was queried if there would need to be an adjustment in what the Council organises and why, as well as assessing the impact of them.

Many felt that the Council should do more to engage with and form links with existing groups and organisations in the community to support them to achieve the Council's strategic aims.

Discussion took place regarding social media and it was felt that the Council should include in its strategy the aim to provide more positive information and show a willingness to improve where genuine failings were identified.

Members discussed the possibility of commissioning a consultant to help the community produce a place survey and therefore a place plan, with the example of Newtown/ y Drenewydd being given. The CDO shared with members a copy of their place plan during the meeting.

Members discussed working with local businesses to tackle problems they were indirectly responsible for, such as litter.

The CDO and Clerk/RFO were asked to comment, and they suggested that the Council should seek to be as ambitious as possible to help promote positivity and create positive things for the community, and that if something was beyond the direct remit of the Council it should seek help and offer support to those who could deliver what was needed.

Members closed discussions by noting that encouraging use of Welsh in the community should be central to the strategy as it was part of our heritage and future and it needed celebrating and promoting.



4. Consideration of renaming Woodlands car park (deferred from Regeneration and Community Engagement meeting 14/07/21).

Following a discussion, members **AGREED** unanimously to ask the Clerk/RFO to contact the County Council regarding the name change, highlighting the safety risk it created for those communicating with the emergency services as the name Tywyn Bach car park was already established in the community.

ACTION: Clerk/RFO

5. Any urgent business at the discretion of the Chair.

Members noted that a meeting had been arranged with Neil Thomas regarding the barbecue bins in the Country Park on the 4th August.

The CDO reminded members about upcoming events.

Members noted that the CFS had secured a licence to cut the grass at Seaview Terrace and that Town Council staff would be undertaking future cuts following on from the recent work by the County Council.

Members also noted that the Strategy Committee would next be meeting in September.

Meeting ended 11.20am

